(b) what steps Government are contemplating to improve the power position in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) The power supply position in the Southern States during 1987-88 will be known after the Central Electricity Authority complete their assessment. During the month of January, 1987, the total requirement of power by the Southern States was 4613 million units against which the availability was 4148 million units.

(b) The steps taken to mitigate the shortage in the Southern States include expeditious commissioning of additional generating capacity, early stabilisation of newly commission units, transfer of surplus power from neighbouring Regions| States, improving the performance of existing thermal power stations etc.

Import by Punjab Electricity Board

541. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab Electricity Board was allowed to import 100 tonne-tractor-trailers from Italy which involved foreign exchange expenditure of about Rs. 2.35 crores while the equipment was indigenously available;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said equipment has completely failed and is not working; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the persons responsible for this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) In the year 1981, after obtaining DGTD clearance from the indigenous angle, Punjab State Electricity Board was permitted to import 1 No. 200 MT self-propelled vehicle. The foreign exchange outgo was approximately Rs. 97 lakhs.

(c) and (d) According to Punjab State Electricity Board, the equipment is not operational at present as difficulties are being experienced in obtaining spare parts.

Energy conservation in the country

542. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1816 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for introduction of compulsory annual energy audit in all the industries; with a view to conserving energy in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present for introduction of energy audits on a compulsory basise.

Shortag of Power

543. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute power shortage in Uttar Pradesh and several other parts of the country forcing many industries to run only for two to three hours a day; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action is being taken by Government to improve the position of power supply to the industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) There is shortage of power of varying degrees in Uttar Pradesh and many other States. Depending upon the availability of power